Functioning of Indian Institute of Technology

1766. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the IITs has failed to equip its students with enough skills to face challenges;

(b) if so, whether the UGC has studied and revealed failure of the IITs in this respect;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action Government propose to take to streamline the functioning of the IITs in the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUM. SELJA): (a) No, Sir. The curriculum design and training methods are periodically reviewed to include new and emerging technologies and changes that are taking place within and outside the country. Their graduates have successfully contributed to the growth of industry and Research and Development in the country and are in persistent demand.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Corruption in Education System

1767. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA:

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Corrupaion eating into educatitn system" as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 2-1-1995;

(b) if so whether the standard of higher education system in the country is declining day by day;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government propose to contemplate any serious efforts in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) KUM. SELJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). In pursuance of NPE-86, the Government and UGC have taken several initiatives to improve the standard of education in institutions of higher learning. Some of the major steps taken in this regard are:

— Revision of pay scales of college and University teachers w.e.f. 1-1-1986. Opportunities provided for training and career advancement for teachers. All-India Eligibility Test introduced to attract best talent to the teaching profession.

— Academic staff colleges established for re-orientation of newly appointed university and college Teachers.

— 27 Curriculum Development Centres in Sciences and Humanities established to modernise curricula. Model curricula have been prepared for 27 disciplines in undergraduate and post-graduate courses.

— Financial assistance provided by UGC for improvement in teaching and research under Special Assistance Programmes, like Centres of Advanced Study, COSIP, COSIST, etc.

— Inter-University Centres established by UGC to provide front-line facilities and services for advancement of research in the university system.

— Higher priority given to grant of autonomy to selected Colleges and University Departments.

— Guidelines for implementation of an Academic Calendar circulated. These guidelines emphasize observance of at least 180 teaching days by universities/colleges.